**Much Birch PPG Committee Biographies**

**March 2018**

**Stephen Maud, Chair - St. Owen’s Cross**

My career began, in the north of England, in the 1960s in the packaging industry. I alternated between packaging and consumer goods, in senior management positions, specialising in purchasing and supply. I later became Chief Executive of a packaging company and then completed my career as a management consultant, working in Europe and the UK. The family moved to Herefordshire 35 years ago and we have been patients at Much Birch since then. I hope my management experience will help establish the PPG as an effective team over the next year or so.

**Jane Ellis vice chair and secretary Much Birch PPG - Harewood End**

I have become deeply involved in improving the health and wellbeing of patients in Herefordshire, listening to patients and giving a voice to their concerns in the right forums and as a ‘critical friend’ to the service providers. I am a director of Healthwatch Herefordshire (HWH) responsible for Primary and acute care in the county. HWH is the independent watchdog and patient’s champion. I am also an NHS England Patient and Public voice member for mental health.

Our family has lived in Herefordshire since 1993, involved in the community in Herefordshire and South Wales. I was a working mum with three daughters and I have lived in Harewood End for ten years.

As a former company director I have a wealth of experience across a wide range of categories of business. I have held senior positions at board level in global retail, manufacturing and as an interim manager specialising in communication, marketing and general management.

Good health and wellbeing should be a right for all. I truly believe that working together we can improve lives and outcomes for all our community

**Ann Stoakes - Ballingham**

I have considerable knowledge of how the NHS actually works - from experience as an employee and now as a user of it.  As a member of Much Birch PPG, I bring the skills of accurate observation, effective communication between people; the ability to analyse the causes of dissent between commissioners, providers and users of health and social care and to take part in devising acceptable solutions for all parties. I have the free time to be involved in all aspects of the PPG functions, meetings, promoting our aims and objectives.

**Jake Bharier - Dinedor Hill**

I had spent 20 years working for a multinational chemicals company at corporate level, in the area of health, safety and environment. I then spent another 20 years working for an international development charity. I am still active in this area, as a Trustee of a charity, and as chair of an international committee involved with standards for development effectiveness. I have recently been appointed an independent Trustee of Mountain Rescue England and Wales. I live on Dinedor with my partner.

**Valerie Ballantyne**

In 1979 I started my nurse training in mental health, working on the wards up at St Mary’s, then within the Stonebow Unit. In 1990 I and a very small team of nurses opened the Knoll mental health unit in Ross on Wye, where I worked as senior Community Psychiatric Nurse covering South Herefordshire until I retired in 2013.

I volunteer at the County Hospital two mornings a week, and I am a tutor for the Expert Patient Programme.

I have been a patient at Much Birch surgery for the last 15 years.